

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus, ~~which that~~ performs an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing ~~in association with~~ for a different image processing apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

registration means for registering ~~in advance predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is authorized to use said image processing apparatus;

input means for ~~use by the user to enter~~ entering user information and the first operating instruction for ~~the different~~ said image processing apparatus;

first authentication means for employing the ~~predetermined~~ registration information registered by said registration means and the user information entered by ~~the user at~~ said input means to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to the different image processing apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered ~~[[at]]~~ by said input means;

second authentication means for obtaining from the different image

processing apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from said transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user on the different image processing apparatus; and

determination means for employing the results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by said image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by said different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

~~wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by said scanner means

using a printer function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by said scanner means using a storage function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means by using a facsimile transmission function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus that performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, an image processing service provided by a

~~first operating instruction and a second operating instruction about image processing in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus accessible across a network,~~
comprising:

registration means for registering, ~~in advance, predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is permitted to use said image processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving user information and the second operating instruction for said image processing apparatus; ~~both of which are entered by the user at the~~
from a different image processing apparatus on the network;

authentication means for employing the ~~predetermined~~ registration information registered by said registration means and the user information received by said reception means to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different image processing apparatus; and

determination means for employing results obtained by said authentication means to determine whether the second operating instruction received by said reception means is to be accepted,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by said different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by said image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

printing means for outputting data to a printer,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printing means to print image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means for storing data,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to

claim 6, further comprising:

facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~
operating instruction is an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to
transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the
different apparatus.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A communication system comprised of at
least a first image processing device that performs an image processing service in
association with a second image processing device ~~accessible across a network~~,

wherein said first image processing device comprises:

first registration means for registering ~~in advance predetermined~~
registration information for a user who is authorized to use said first image processing
device;

input means for ~~use by the user to enter~~ entering user information
and a first operating instruction about image processing for said ~~second~~ first image
processing device;

first authentication means for employing the ~~predetermined~~
registration information registered by said first registration means and the user information

entered by ~~the user at~~ said input means to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to said second image processing device the user information and a second operating instruction about image processing entered by the user, and

wherein said second image processing device comprises:

second registration means for registering, ~~in advance, predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is permitted to use said second image processing device;

reception means for receiving the user information and the second operating instruction for said second image processing device, ~~both of which are entered by the user at~~ from said first image processing device;

second authentication means for employing the ~~predetermined~~ information registered by said second registration means and the user information received by said reception means to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

determination means for employing results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether the second operating instruction received by

said reception means is to be accepted,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by said first image processing device and the second operating instruction is performed by said second image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 12-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): An image processing communication method of an image processing apparatus that performs an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing ~~in association with~~ for a different image processing apparatus ~~accessible across a network~~, comprising:

a registration step of registering ~~in advance~~ ~~predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is authorized to use the image processing apparatus;

an input step of ~~the user inputting~~ entering user information and the first operating instruction for the different image processing apparatus;

a first authentication step of employing the user information entered ~~by the user~~ and a registration table, in which the ~~predetermined~~ registration information is registered, to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different image processing apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered ~~by the user~~;

a second authentication step of obtaining from the different image processing apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by said image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by said different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ registration information in the registration table and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A communication method according to

claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~
operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by the scanner using a
printer function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A communication method according to
claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~
operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read
by the scanner using a storage function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A communication method according to
claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~
operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination,
image data read by the scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of the different

image processing apparatus.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An image processing communication method in which an image processing apparatus connected to a network performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, an image processing service provided by a ~~first operating instruction about image processing~~ and a second operating instruction about image processing ~~in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across the network~~, comprising:

a registration step of registering, ~~in advance, predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is permitted to use the image processing apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and the second operating instruction for the image processing apparatus;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which the ~~predetermined~~ registration information is registered, to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different image processing apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether the second operating instruction is to be accepted,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

an output step of outputting data to a printer,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for outputting, from the printer, image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a storage step of storing data in a storage device,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in the storage device, image data read by

a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined destination,

wherein ~~at least one of the first operating instruction and the second~~ operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to the predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A communication method of a communication system, which includes at least a first image processing device that performs an image processing service in association with a second image processing device ~~accessible across a network~~, comprising:

at the first image processing device:

a first registration step of registering ~~in advance predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is authorized to use the first image processing device;

an input step of ~~the user~~ entering user information and a first operating instruction for the ~~second~~ first image processing device;

a first authentication step of employing the ~~predetermined~~ registration information registered at said first registration step and the user information entered ~~by the user~~ at said input step to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results obtained at said first authentication step, transmitting to the second image processing device the user information and a second operating instruction about image processing entered, and

at the second image processing device:

a second registration step of registering, ~~in advance, predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is permitted to use the second image processing device;

a reception step of receiving user information and a request for the operating instruction for the second device, ~~both of which are entered by the user at~~ from the first device;

a second authentication step of employing the ~~predetermined~~ information registered at said second registration step and the user information received at said reception step to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing results obtained at said second

authentication step to determine whether the second operating instruction received at said reception step is to be accepted,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by said first image processing device and the second operating instruction is performed by said second image processing device after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 27 -30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): ~~An image processing~~ A storage medium storing ~~an image processing~~ a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method of an image processing apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing ~~in association with~~ for a different image processing apparatus ~~accessible across a network~~, wherein the method comprises:

a registration step of registering ~~in advance predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is authorized to use the image processing apparatus;

an input step of ~~the user~~ inputting user information and the first operating instruction for the ~~different~~ image processing apparatus;

a first authentication step of employing the user information ~~entered by the~~

user inputted and a registration table, in which the ~~predetermined~~ registration information is registered, to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different image processing apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information inputted ~~entered by the user~~;

a second authentication step of obtaining from the different image processing apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 32-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): ~~An image processing~~ A storage medium

storing ~~an image processing~~ a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method in which an image processing apparatus connected to a network performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, a service provided by ~~a first operating instruction about image processing~~ and a second operating instruction about image processing ~~in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across the network~~, the method comprising:

a registration step of registering, ~~in advance, predetermined~~ registration information for a user who is permitted to use the image processing apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and the second operating instruction for the image processing apparatus;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which the ~~predetermined~~ registration information is registered, to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether ~~the request for~~ the second operating instruction is to be accepted,

wherein the first operating instruction is performed by the different image

processing apparatus and the second operating instruction is performed by the image
processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 37-40 (canceled)